



NEWS RELEASE

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Robert Nelson Selected Temporary Branch Manager of SBA's Springfield Office

Boston - Massachusetts U.S. Small Business Administration Acting Massachusetts District Director Mark S. Hayward today announced the appointment of Team Leader Robert Nelson as acting branch manager of the SBA's Springfield Branch Office. Nelson's 120 day assignment will provide an agency presence in western Massachusetts while the search for a replacement for long-time Branch Manager Harry Webb is underway. Mr. Webb retired from SBA in April.

As acting branch manager, Nelson will oversee the delivery of SBA's financial assistance, entrepreneurial development and government contracting programs in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties as well as a portion of Worcester County.

"I am very excited about having someone as qualified and talented as Bob Nelson representing the SBA in western Massachusetts," said Hayward. "Bob's banking background and his familiarity with all of SBA's programs and services as well as the needs of the small business community will make him a highly effective branch manager."

Nelson received a degree in economics from Hobart College. Prior to his employment with the SBA, Nelson was a commercial loan officer and vice president at Shawmut Bank, and served as section chief for loan collections at the FDIC. Nelson has most recently supervised the portfolio management and liquidation divisions at the Massachusetts SBA office.

SBA's Springfield Branch Office is located at the Springfield Enterprise Center at One Federal Street. Management counseling and training for the region's small businesses are provided by the Springfield SCORE Chapter, the Western Massachusetts Regional Small Business Development Center, and a business information center at the same location. The Massachusetts Small Business Development Center state office and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center are located at University of Massachusetts Amherst, 227 Isenberg School Of Management - Room 205, 121 Presidents Drive, Amherst, MA. Another business information center is located in Pittsfield, MA.

SBA-backed loans are delivered by a number of banks in western Massachusetts. The most active western Massachusetts lenders are: the Bank of Western Massachusetts, Legacy Banks, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Florence Savings Bank, Greenfield Co-operative Bank, Chicopee Savings Bank and United Bank.

Nelson can be reached at 413-785-0484.

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